

**JOHN T. SALAZAR**  
3RD DISTRICT OF COLORADO

326 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
202-225-4761  
202-226-9669 (FAX)



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 7, 2010

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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The Honorable Julius Genachowski  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I write to you to inquire about the status of the recent agreement by AT&T to purchase certain wireless systems that Verizon Wireless is required to divest in certain rural areas in connection with its ALLTEL acquisition. As I understand it, the FCC has been considering this transaction for over one year now.

Once this process is given final approval by the FCC, AT&T will be able to invest \$400 million to build out its network in connection with this transaction. The majority of this investment will take place in rural areas, where access to broadband and other advanced telecommunications technologies has lagged. This substantial investment is expected to create jobs and stimulate the economy, which is especially important in difficult economic times like these.

This transaction will also bring much needed broadband service to many new areas. Consumers will benefit from having AT&T as an option when shopping for wireless services and devices. At least 18 states and 1.5 million customers mostly in rural communities stand to be impacted by this purchase. The majority of these are located in areas where AT&T currently has little or no presence. In my home state of Colorado at least 30 counties would be impacted with more consumer benefits and choices.

I also understand that the transaction does not pose any threat to competition. The Department of Justice's Antitrust Division has reviewed the approved transaction. The benefits of this transaction are clear – job creation, investment, an improved telecommunications infrastructure for rural America, increased competition and more choices for consumers.

134 WEST B STREET  
PUEBLO, CO 81003  
719-543-8200  
719-543-8204 (FAX)

225 NORTH 5TH STREET, STE 702  
GRAND JUNCTION, CO 81501  
970-245-7107  
970-245-2194 (FAX)

609 MAIN STREET, #6  
ALAMOSA, CO 81101  
719-587-5105  
719-587-5137 (FAX)

813 MAIN AVENUE, STE 3  
DURANGO, CO 81301  
970-259-1012  
970-259-9467 (FAX)

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Of course, I ask that you consider such action consistent with applicable law and regulations. Should you have any questions, please contact my staff member Alfonso Lopez at [alfonso.lopez@mail.house.gov](mailto:alfonso.lopez@mail.house.gov) or 202-225-4761. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John T. Salazar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Salazar" clearly distinguishable.

John T. Salazar  
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Michael Copps  
The Honorable Robert McDowell  
The Honorable Mignon Clyburn  
The Honorable Meredith Attwell Baker



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 5, 2010

The Honorable John T. Salazar  
U.S. House of Representatives  
326 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Salazar:

Thank you for your letter urging prompt approval of AT&T's acquisition from Verizon Wireless of FCC licenses and authorizations associated with 79 markets. These authorizations are being divested by Verizon Wireless in connection with its acquisition of ALLTEL Corporation. As you note, many of the authorizations at issue in this proceeding concern wireless operations in rural areas.

On June 22, 2010, the Commission adopted a *Memorandum Opinion and Order* approving the transaction with conditions. To ensure that approval of this transaction serves the public interest, the Commission adopted several conditions, including conditions relating to roaming, preservation of service on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, and a commitment by AT&T to divest 15 megahertz of spectrum in one Michigan market. The Commission expects that this transaction will benefit consumers, particularly throughout much of rural America, by giving them access to an array of additional service offerings.

I appreciate your interest in this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Genachowski", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Julius Genachowski